

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment of the amendments and third reading of the bill.

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I now ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) is absent because of a death in the family.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAYTON). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 5, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 269 Leg.]

YEAS—94

Akaka	Dorgan	McConnell
Allard	Durbin	Mikulski
Allen	Edwards	Miller
Baucus	Ensign	Murkowski
Bayh	Enzi	Murray
Bennett	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Fitzgerald	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Frist	Nickles
Bond	Graham	Reed
Boxer	Grassley	Reid
Breaux	Gregg	Roberts
Brownback	Hagel	Rockefeller
Bunning	Harkin	Santorum
Burns	Hatch	Sarbanes
Byrd	Helms	Schumer
Campbell	Hollings	Sessions
Cantwell	Hutchinson	Shelby
Carmahan	Hutchison	Smith (NH)
Carper	Inhofe	Smith (OR)
Chafee	Inouye	Snowe
Cleland	Jeffords	Specter
Clinton	Johnson	Stabenow
Cochran	Kennedy	Stevens
Collins	Kerry	Thomas
Conrad	Kohl	Thompson
Corzine	Landrieu	Thurmond
Craig	Leahy	Torricelli
Crapo	Levin	Warner
Daschle	Lieberman	Wellstone
Dayton	Lincoln	Wyden
DeWine	Lott	
Dodd	Lugar	

NAYS—5

Feingold	Kyl	Voinovich
Gramm	McCain	

NOT VOTING—1

Domenici

The bill (H.R. 2620), as amended, was passed.

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I move that the Senate insist on its amendments and request a conference with the House, and that the Chair be

authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

The motion was agreed to, and the Presiding Officer appointed Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. KOHL, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BOND, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. STEVENS conferees on the part of the Senate.

BIPARTISANSHIP ON APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, as the Senate prepares to adjourn until September, I thank the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee who have worked so hard to report nine bills from committee for the fiscal year that begins on October 1. In particular, I thank my distinguished colleague, the ranking member on the full committee, TED STEVENS and the chairmen and ranking members for the five bills that have passed the Senate.

The five chairmen and ranking members include Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI and Senator KIT BOND on the VA/ HUD and Independent Agencies bill, Senator HARRY REID and Senator PETE DOMENICI on the Energy and Water bill, Senator PATTY MURRAY and Senator RICHARD SHELBY on the Transportation bill, Senator RICHARD DURBIN and Senator ROBERT BENNETT on the Legislative Branch bill and Senator CONRAD BURNS on the Interior bill.

We have a longstanding tradition on the Appropriations Committee of working together on a bipartisan basis to produce the thirteen appropriations bills. This year, we established a goal of reporting nine bipartisan and fiscally responsible bills prior to the August recess. We have met this challenge. I thank my good friend TED STEVENS for his leadership in helping us meet this goal.

Based on that tradition of bipartisan ship, the transition in party leadership on the Appropriations Committee was seamless. The hard work of the committee to produce 13 bills preceded the transition and continued after I assumed the chairmanship and the committee was reorganized on July 10, 2001. This is a credit to all of our colleagues and our dedicated staff who have labored unceasingly to bring these bills to the Senate.

Producing the fiscal year 2002 appropriations bills has been a particular challenge this year. With the election of a new President, the President's budget was sent to the Congress on April 9, 2001, 2 months later than in a normal year. When we received the President's budget, it included a number of proposed reductions in discretionary programs. We have scrutinized the budget and where appropriate we accepted the proposed cuts, but in other cases we had to restore cuts in programs that have broad bipartisan support in the Senate.

Restoring these cuts, while funding programs that are important to all Americans, has been very difficult, given the very tight limits on discretionary spending contained in the budget resolution. I did not vote for that budget resolution, but we have worked together on a bipartisan basis to produce bills that are within their 302(b) allocations. We do not have unlimited resources at our disposal, so we have been forced to make difficult decisions. Nevertheless, we believe the bills that the committee brought to the Senate have been fair, balanced, and served the needs of the American people.

We have held the line while making sure that we kept our promise to our Nation's veterans, we have helped the poor move to a better life by rebuilding neighborhoods, we have protected the environment and invested in science and technology and we have funded disaster relief programs in response to floods and other natural disasters to provide assistance to our citizens in their time of need.

We have funded our Nation's transportation systems to promote safe travel on our roads, in the air and on our waterways. We have invested in our Nation's energy independence and funded our natural resource programs. We have invested in our Nation's infrastructure for bridges and dams and navigation projects.

I thank the many Senators who have dedicated themselves to this task and I look forward to working to send thirteen bipartisan and fiscally responsible appropriations bills to the President. I have spoken with the House Appropriations Committee Chairman BILL YOUNG and the Ranking Member DAVID OBEY and urged them to move quickly to conference on the appropriations bills. I had pressed the House to complete conference action on two of the bills before the August recess, but the House did not name their conferees. However, our staffs will be working during August to resolve differences between the House and Senate bills so that we can go to conference on several of these bills when Congress returns in September.

I am committed to producing 13 bills this year. We should not go down the road employed in recent years of producing omnibus appropriations bills that rob Members of the opportunity to read, let alone understand the contents of the bill. We intend to work together on a bipartisan basis to meet the challenges that lay before us.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. For the information of our colleagues, there will be three votes shortly on three nominees that we will take from the Executive Calendar. We are in the process of drafting